

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 01581 01 OF 02 092359Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-06 OMB-01 HEW-04 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W
-----100008Z 117006 /70

R 092308Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0218

US MISSION GENEVA 0834

INFO ALL U.S. CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 1581

DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

GENEVA FOR MATHEA FALCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINT, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL IN LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION

1. SUMMARY: AFTER SEVENTY DAYS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, MY STAFF AND I HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS ARE OFF TO A BETTER START THAN EVEN THE MOST OPTIMISTIC DARED TO PREDICT. IF THIS SPIRIT PREVAILS, WE SHOULD WITNESS COOPERATION FAR EXCEEDING THAT OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY.

2. LAST FALL, WASHINGTON AGENCIES EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT HOW THE NEW LOPEZ-PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION WOULD HANDLE NARCOTICS CONTROL. MESSAGES RECEIVED HERE EXPRESSED THE PREVAILING FEAR THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE LESS DEDICATED AND LESS VIGOROUS, AND THAT THE HARD-WON COMMITMENTS OF ECHIVERRIA AND HIS ATTORNEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 01581 01 OF 02 092359Z

GENERAL, OJEDA-PAULLADA, WOULD EVAPORATE.

3. THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, OSCAR FLORES-SANCHEZ, HIMSELF CALLED THE FIRST MEETING ON NARCOTICS CONTROL AFTER ONLY SEVEN DAYS IN OFFICE. HE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED COOPERATIVE PROGRAMMING WITH HIS OLD FIREND AND NEW SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL, FELIX GALVAN-LOPEZ.

BY THE TIME SHELDON VANCE(S/NM) AND PETER BESINGER(DEA) VISITED MEXICO CITY IN MID-DECEMBER, FLORES HAD APPOINTED HIS SECOND DEPUTY, SAMUEL ALBA-LEYVA, AS OVERALL NARCOTICS COORDINATOR FOR HIS MINISTRY. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE SEEN ALBA AND/OR HIS KEY STAFF MEMBERS ALMOST DAILY SINCE THAT TIME, AND BOTH FLORES AND ALBA HAVE MADE SEVERAL TRIPS TO FIELD LOCATIONS TO GET THE PROGRAM MOVING.

4. FLORES HAS MADE GOON ON HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD GET THE MILITARY INVOLVED. TAKS FORCE "CONDOR I" IS ALREADY OPERATING IN SINALOA PROVINCE, WITH ITS HEADQUARTERS AT SAN JOSE DEL LLANO. ACCORDING TO A LETTER FROM GALVAN TO FLORES(SEEN BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER), CONDOR I NOW HAS 1,200 MEN IN THE FIELD WITH AN ADDITIONAL 1,900 MEN SPREAD THROUGH SIX OTHER MILITARY COMMANDS FOR NARCOTICS ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES. THE LATTER ARE PURSUING WHAT TO THE ARMY IS A CONTINUING AND PERMANENT TASK. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN A PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE TO THE TREASURY ORDERING IMMEDIATE DISBURSEMENT TO DEFENSE OF OVER DOL\$550,000 TO SUPPORT THESE MILITARY IN THE FIELD, PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR CONDOR I.

5. IN WHAT CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED IN RECENT YEARS, THE MEXICAN AIR FORCE(MAF) HAS PERMITTED OUR AVIATION TECHNICIANS TO INSPECT AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO GET THEM AIRBORNE FOR THIS CAMPAIGN.
(THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT WITHOUT BENEFIT TO THE MAF.)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 01581 01 OF 02 092359Z

THE AR FORCE HAS ALSO SECONDED TEN OF ITS OWN HELICOPTER PILOTS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND, AGAIN SETTING PRECEDENT, HAS PERMITTED OUR INSTRUCTOR TO GIVE TESTS TO DETERMINE THEIR PROFICIENCY. TO APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE STEPS, ONE MUST RECALL THAT THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION INSISTED ON DOING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT INVOLVING THE MILITARY.

6. ON THE ENFORCEMENT SIDE, FLORES AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN EXCEEDINGLY OPEN WITH DEA REPRESENTATIVES HERE. CARRYING OF WEAPONS WAS ORALLY APPROVED, AN INTELLIGENCE UNIT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR WHICH WE ARE PROVIDING ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, AND PLANS FOR JOINT PROSECUTION AND THE RETURN OF FUGITIVES WERE FINALIZED WITH ONLY MINIMUM DISCUSSION. THE ADDITION OF TWENTY-SIX TDY PERSONNEL FROM DEA TO OBSERVE AND MONITOR THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN WAS RECEIVED WITH GRATITUDE AND, I AM TOLD, TDY PERSONNEL AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS ARE WORKING SUCCESSFULLY IN THE FIELD.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 01581 02 OF 02 092352Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-06 OMB-01 HEW-04 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W
-----100011Z 116935 /70

R 092317Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0219
US MISSION GENEVA 0835
INFO ALL U.S. CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 1581

DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

GENEVA FOR MATHEA FALCO

7. THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS ON A MORE PROFESSIONAL
LEVEL THAN EVER BEFORE. AFTER SOME INITIAL FALSE
STARTS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL NOW TALKS NOT OF EQUIP-
MENT NEEDS BUT OF MISSIONS TO BE PERFORMED, AND HIS
STAFF NOW LOOKS FOR ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO RESOLVE
PROBLEMS. THE RECENTLY IDENTIFIED NEED FOR TROOP
LIFT CAPABILITY IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE. WHEN WE
NOTED PROBLEMS WITH PROVIDING MEDIUM-LIFT HELICOPTERS
SUCH AS CHINOOKS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STAFF IT-
SELF CAME UP WITH THE SUGGESTION TO DIVERT FIVE BELL
212S ALREADY IN INVENTORY TO THIS PURPOSE, ASKING
IF WE COULD REPLACE THEM WITH THE EQUIVALENT SPRAY
CAPACITY IN SMALLER BELL 206S. THIS SUGGESTION MAKES
BETTER SENSE BOTH FOR THE MEXICANS(INCREASED FLEXIBILITY)
AND FOR US(A SAVING OF ABOUT DOLS THREE MILLION).
MORE FAR-REACHING IS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INVITA-
TION TO EMBASSY OFFICERS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNAL
MEETINGS ON PERSONNEL AND BUDGETING FOR HIS MINISTRY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 01581 02 OF 02 092352Z

TO DISCUSS LEVELS OF STAFFING, POSITION DESCRIPTIONS
AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE FISCAL YEARS.

8. PROBLEMS DO, OF COURSE, REMAIN. THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE IS MURKY. WHEN CONDOR I PERSONNEL BEGAN
TO ARRIVE IN THE FIELD, THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE
MILITARY ATTEMPTED TO TAKE OVER BOTH THE ERADICATION
AND INTERDICTION EFFORT. THIS GENERATED WORKING-
LEVEL FRICTION WHICH HAS NOT ENTIRELY DISAPPEARED.
(WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN WE CALLED THIS SITUA-
TION TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ATTENTION, HE IMMEDIATELY
SPOKE TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, WHO CALLED HIS
COMMANDER IN THE FIELD. THIS ALLEVIATED THE PROBLEM,
AT LEAST TEMPORARILY).

9. NOR HAVE WE YET SEEN SOLID EVIDENCE THAT MEXICO
WILL BE AS VIGOROUS IN ARRESTING AND PROSECUTING
TRAFFICKERS AS IT IS IN THE MORE IMPERSONAL ERADICA-
TION OF ILLICIT CROPS. BOTH CORRUPTION
AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WILL HAVE TO BE OVERCOME
IF THERE IS TO BE A TRULY EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT
EFFORT, AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THE NEW ADMINI-
STRATION WILL EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS.

10. THE BOTTOM LINE AFTER SEVENTY DAYS SPEAKS FOR
ITSELF. ACCORDING TO FIGURES GIVEN TO ME FRIDAY
BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, BETWEEN DECEMBER ONE AND
FEBRUARY THREE, MEXICO DESTROYED 9684 POPPY
FIELDS (4,653 ACRES); DESTROYED 3,657 MARIJUANA
FIELDS (1,823 ACRES); SEIZED 96 CARS AND THREE
AIRCRAFT; ARRESTED 605 MEXICANS AND 34 FOREIGNERS
ON NARCOTICS CHARGES; AND HAD 376 PEOPLE WORKING
IN THE FIELD, NOT COUNTING THOSE CONTRIBUTED BY
THE MILITARY. IF THE LOPEZ-PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION
CAN MAINTAIN THIS MOMENTUM, ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 01581 02 OF 02 092352Z

DEFENSE-ATTORNEY GENERAL COORDINATION, AND CONTINUE
ITS OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EMBASSY, WE CAN REASON-
ABLY EXPECT NARCOTICS CONTROL COOPERATION EXCEEDING
THAT OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.
JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO01581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-0025
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770259/aaaabzur.tel
Line Count: 218
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 51db18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3366313
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS CONTROL IN LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION
TAGS: SNAR, PINT, MX
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51db18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009